THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has initiated an exercise on audit of food safety standards in its base kitchens and pantry cars. The food safety audit is also done for stalls on railway platforms, kiosks and food plaza joints.

(c) and (d) Imparting training to the catering staff is an on-going process. IRCTC is conducting training programmes regularly for both departmental as well as private licencees' staff working in kitchens and on running trains through reputed agencies *viz.* India Tourism Development Corporation and Training Institute of Railways at Kishan Ganj.

Basic facilities at freight terminals

3306. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are going to develop basic facilities at those freight terminals where more than 15 rakes per month are handled;

(b) if so, in how may terminals such facilities would be provided alongwith the names of the terminals;

(c) what types of facilities would be provided; and

(d) what would be the estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):.(a) and (b) The Railway Budget for 2007-08 includes 43 new proposals for developing 48 freight terminals over Indian Railways out of which 16 freight terminals were handling more than 15 rakes per month. These 16 freight terminals are Ahmednagar, New Mulund, Balabhgarh, Gonda, Barbil, Noamundi, Lakshmibai Nagar, Saharsa, Danapur, Sukinda Road, Yamuna Bridge, Sanvardam, Sankaval, Gosalpur, Mandideepand Mandi Govind Garh.

(c) A Statement is attached giving the types of facilities which will be provided at these freight terminals (see below).

(d) The total cost for the improvements in the 16 freignt terminals are approximately Rs. 57.58 crores.

Statement

Types of Basic Facilities to be provided at Freight Terminals

Goods sheds generally should have certain basic features, which will help reduce wagon turn around and facilitate quicker material handling at the terminal. These basic features are listed below:

1. Spurs of full rake length capacity.
2. Direct entry and dispatch facility for the rake to be admitted from or dispatched to the main lines.
3. Adequate and proper circulating area for the movement of road vehicles.
4. Adequate and proper approach roads.
5. Adequate lighting to facilitate round the clock working.
6. Parking space for trucks.
7. Proper platforms and platform surfaces depending on the nature of commodity being handled. These will include infrastructural facilities for handling of crane consignments and loose commodities.
8. Covered platforms depending on the nature of commodity being handled.
9. Proper drainage.
10. Proper storage facilities/warehousing.
11. Proper offices and waiting halls.
12. Communication facilities from the control offices to the freight terminals.
13. Facilities for labour involved in material handling.

Constraints like availability of land etc. may hamper provision of all facilities listed above.

Concession in freight rate on salt

3307. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: